

Application No. 09/982,977
Amendment dated June 2, 2003
Reply to Office Action of February 4, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): A traveling extrusion machine for forming hollow core concrete sections, the machine comprising:

a frame;

a feed chamber mounted on the frame for receiving premixed concrete;

a molding chamber adjacent to the feed chamber;

a mandrel in the molding chamber;

a vibrator mounted adjacent to the molding chamber; and

a rotatable spiral conveyor extending from the feed chamber to the molding chamber, the conveyor having a hollow shaft adjacent to the mandrel and a section of the spiral conveyor releasably connected to the hollow shaft, the section of the conveyor including two components on opposite sides of the hollow shaft, a non-rotation locking device between the components and the hollow shaft and at least one connector

interconnecting the two ~~halves~~ components, said at least one connector engaging both components.

Claim 20 (original): An extrusion machine as claimed in claim 19, wherein the locking device is a key and a keyway, the components of the section having corresponding apertures on opposite sides of the shaft, said at least one connector being two bolts extending between the apertures, the shaft being between the bolts.

Claim 21 (original): A traveling extrusion machine for forming hollow core concrete sections, the machine comprising:

a frame;

a feed chamber mounted on the frame for receiving premixed concrete;

a molding chamber spaced apart from the feed chamber;

a mandrel in the molding chamber;

a vibrator mounted adjacent to the molding chamber; and

a rotatable spiral conveyor extending from the feed chamber to the molding chamber, the conveyor having a first section within the feed chamber having flights with a first constant external diameter, a second section adjacent to the molding chamber having flights with a second constant external diameter, which is greater than the first diameter, extending along a portion of the

conveyor, and a third section between the first section and the second section having flights which taper from the first diameter to the second diameter.

Claim 22 (cancelled)


Claim 23 (original): An extrusion machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein the second section is in two longitudinally divided components, the components being connected to each other by connectors which are spaced-apart from the third section of the conveyor.

Claim 24 (currently amended): An ~~extension~~ extrusion machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein the spiral conveyor has an axis of rotation, the flights of the first section having leading and trailing edges which are sloped relative to the axis of rotation, the flights of the second section having leading edges which are perpendicular to the axis of rotation.

Claim 25 (new): A traveling extrusion machine as claimed in claim 19, wherein said at least one connector is free of the shaft, whereby torque is transmitted from the shaft to the conveyor section by the locking device and said at least one connector secures the two components about the shaft.

Claim 26 (new): A traveling extrusion machine as claimed in claim 21, wherein each said section of the conveyor has a core section, the second conveyor section having said core section with a larger diameter than the core section of the first conveyor section and the third conveyor section having a tapering core

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 section, the flights having exterior profiles generally parallel to the core sections.
